IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A method for treating a nerve-related vision disorder, improving vision, treating memory impairment or enhancing memory performance in a mammal [an animal] in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal [animal] an effective amount of an N-heterocyclic ring compound containing a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid isostere moiety thereof attached to the 2-carbon of the N-heterocyclic ring,

wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is selected from the group consisting of visual impairments; orbital disorders; disorders of the lacrimal apparatus; disorders of the eyelids; disorders of the conjunctiva; disorders of the cornea; cataract; disorders of the uveal tract; disorders of the retina; disorders of the optic nerve or visual pathways; free radical induced eye disorders and diseases; immunologically-mediated eye disorders and diseases; eye injuries; and symptoms and complications of eye disease, eye disorder, and eye injury.

7. (Twice amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is of formula (I):

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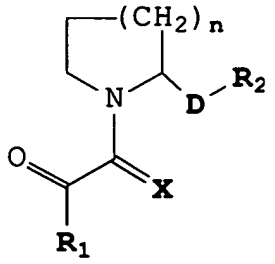

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or solvate thereof,

where

n is 1-3;

X is either O or S;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_9 straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_9 straight or branched chain alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, or heterocycle;

D is a bond, or a C_1-C_{10} straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl or C_2-C_{10} alkynyl; and

R_2 is a carboxylic acid or a carboxylic acid isostere [;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or solvate thereof].

B3

11. (Once amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

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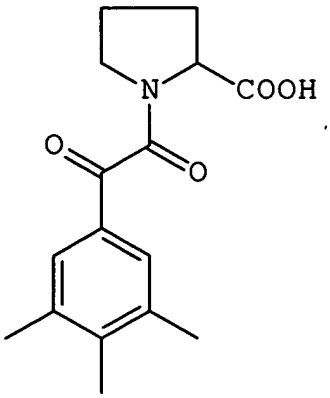

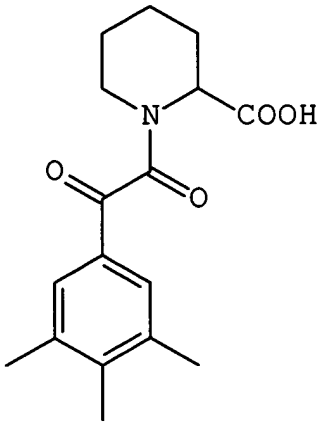

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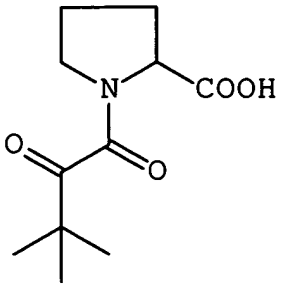

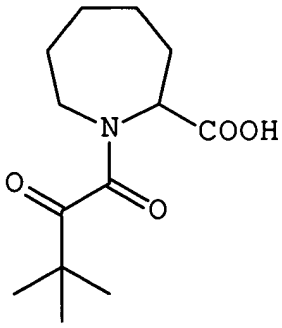

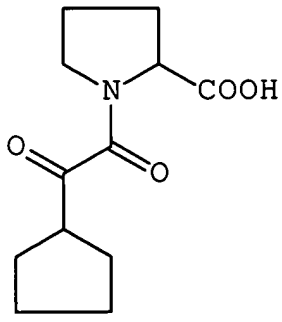

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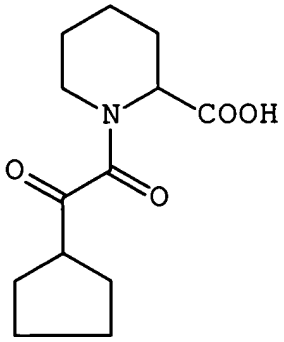

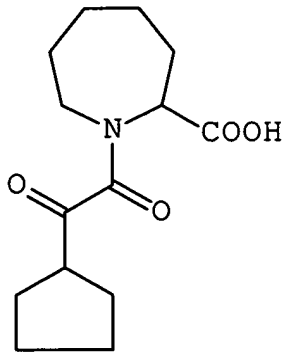

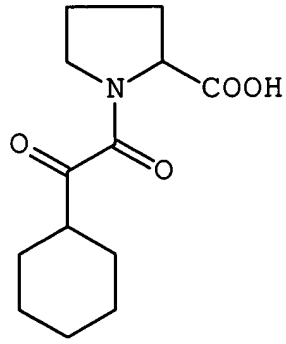

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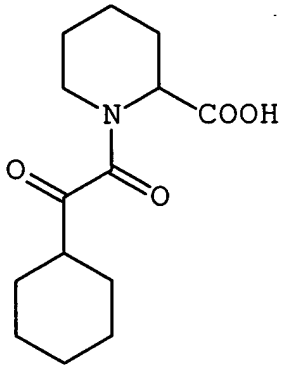

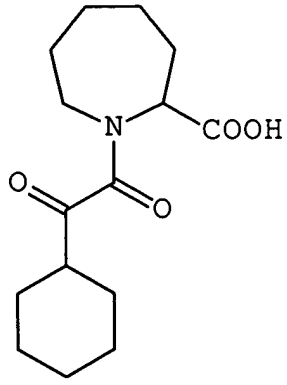

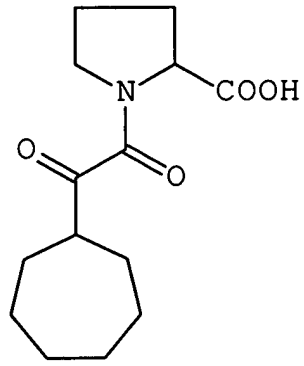

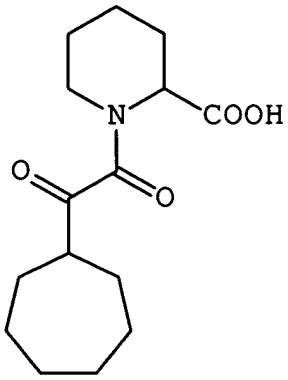

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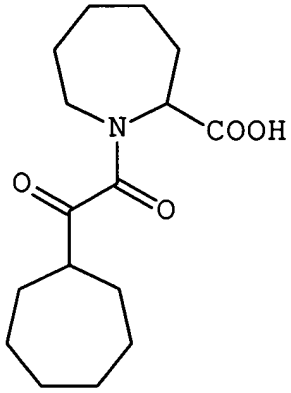

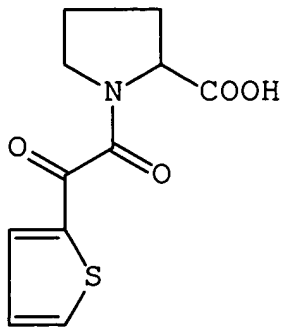

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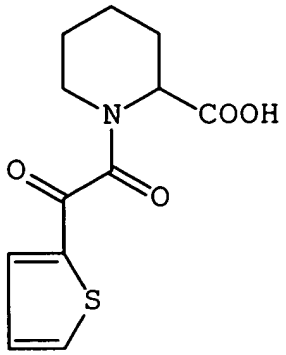

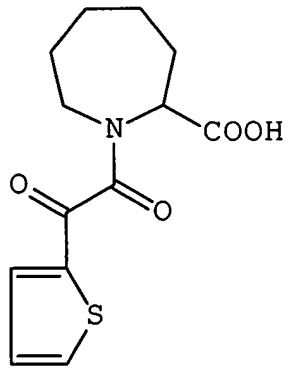

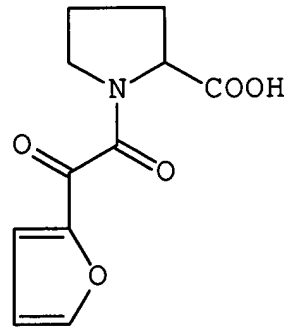

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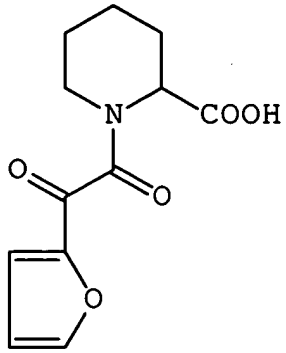

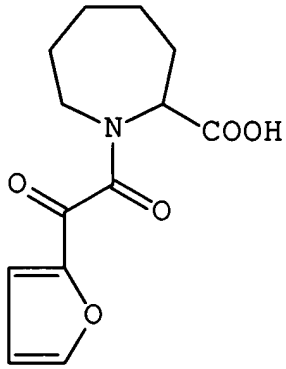

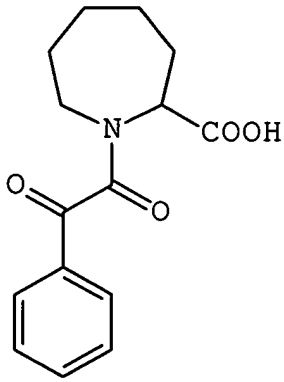

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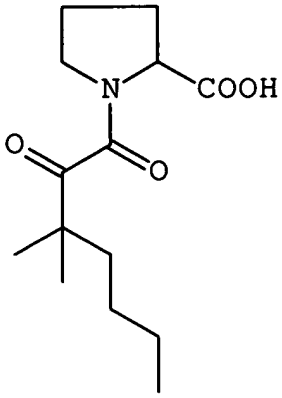

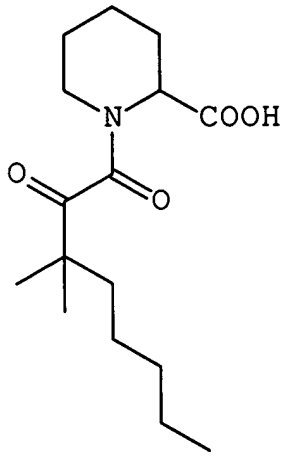

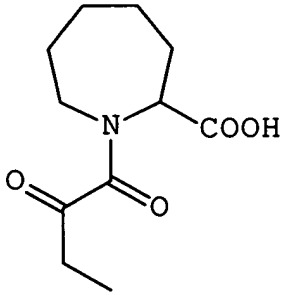

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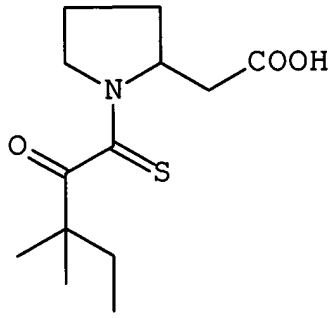

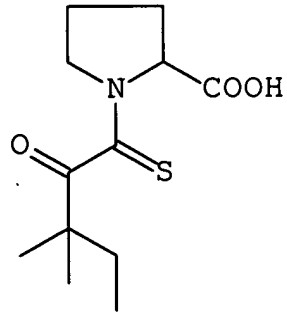

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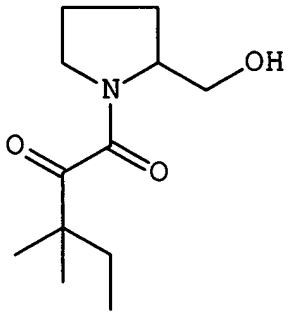

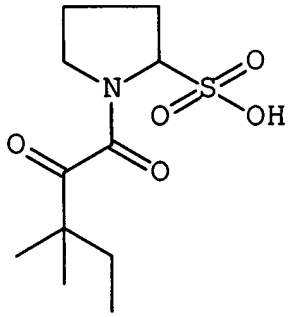

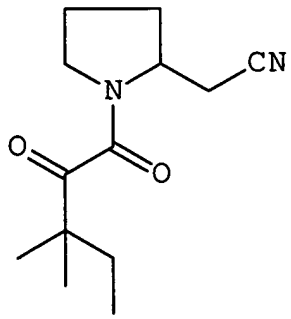

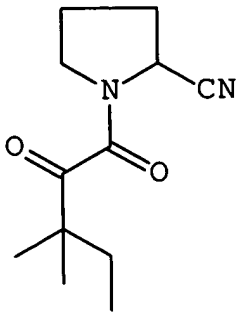

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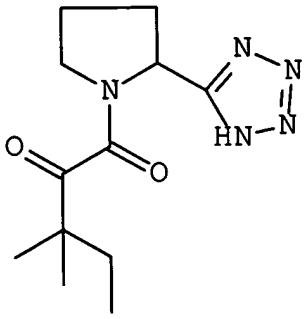

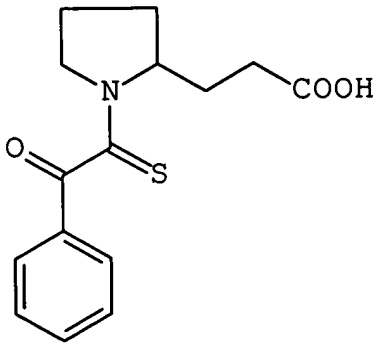

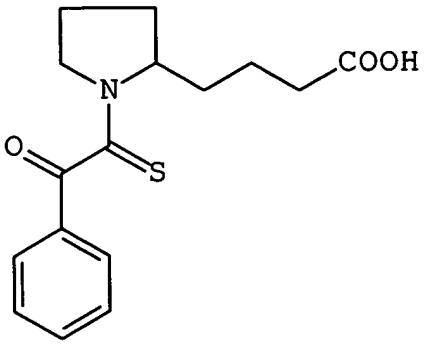

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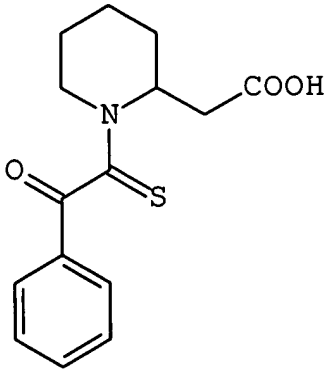

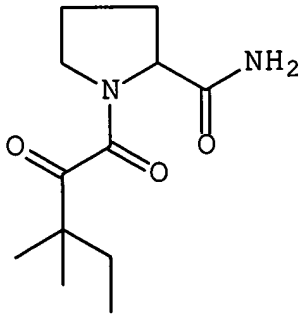

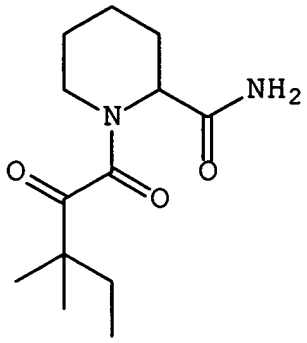

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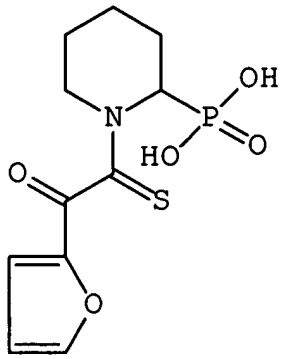

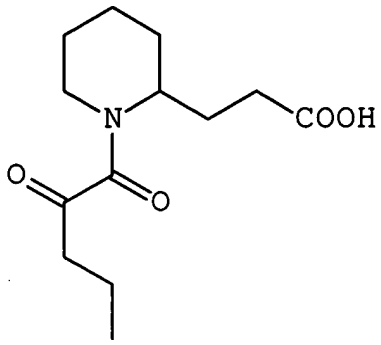

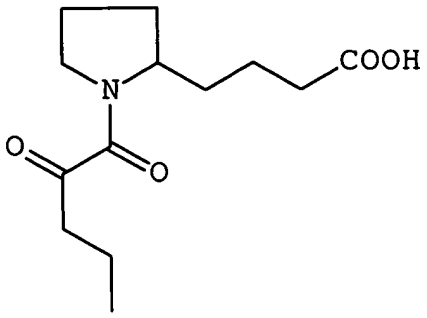

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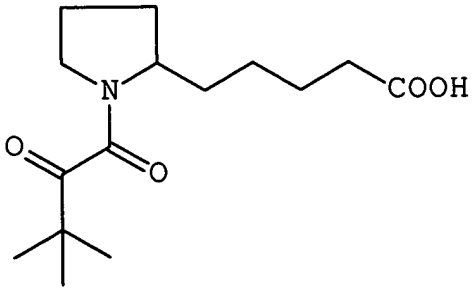

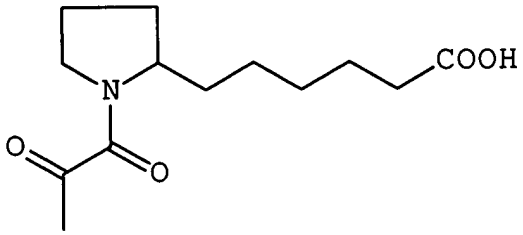

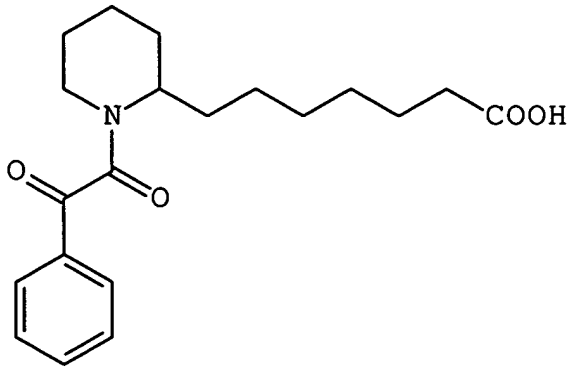

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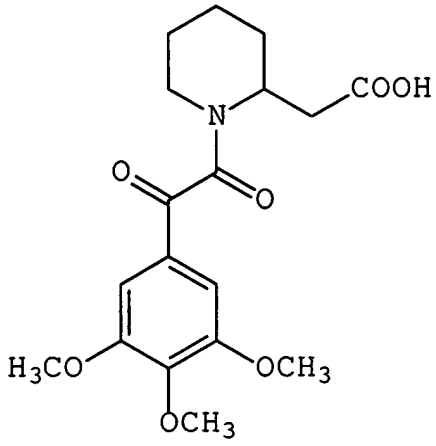

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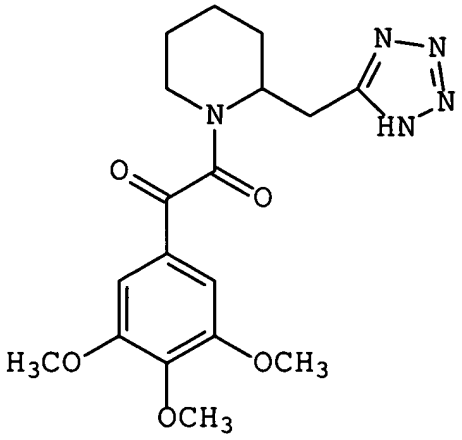

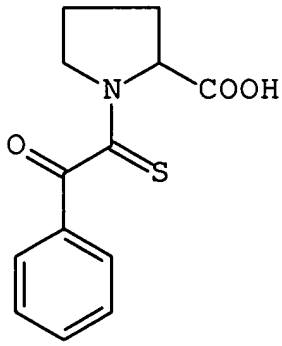

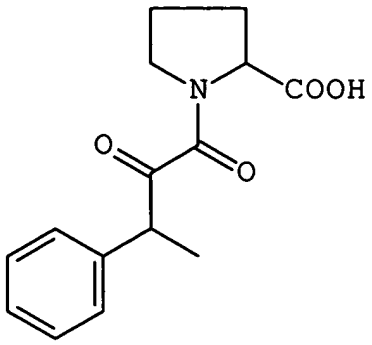

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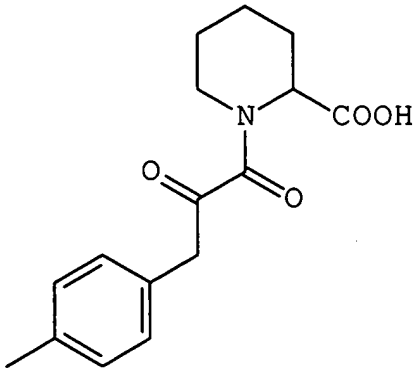

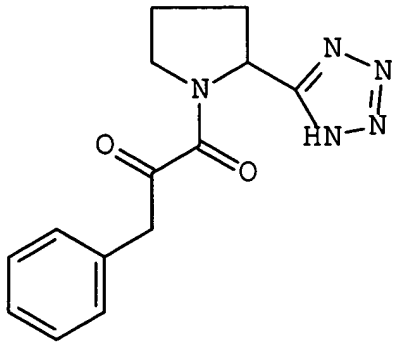

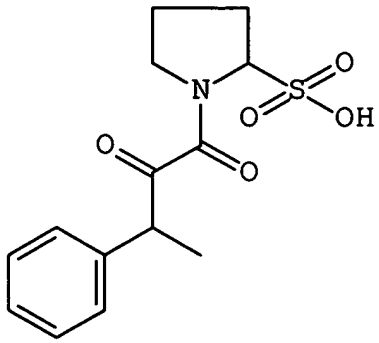

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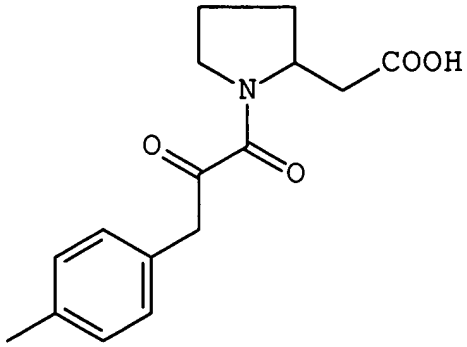

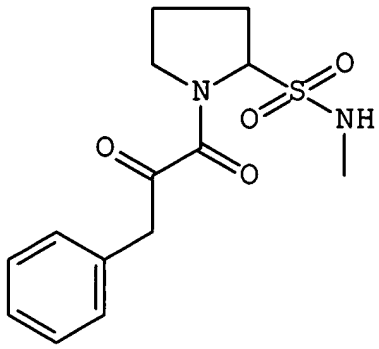

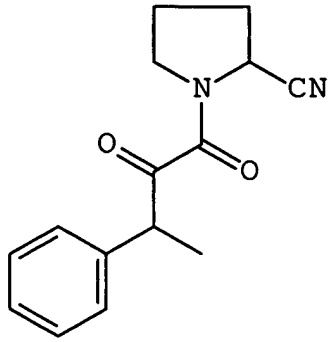

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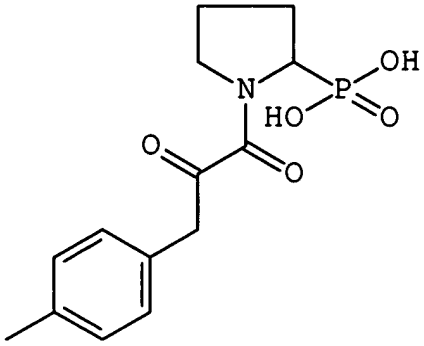

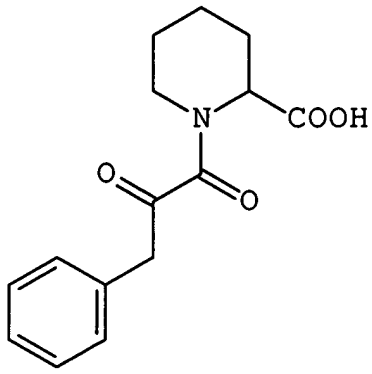

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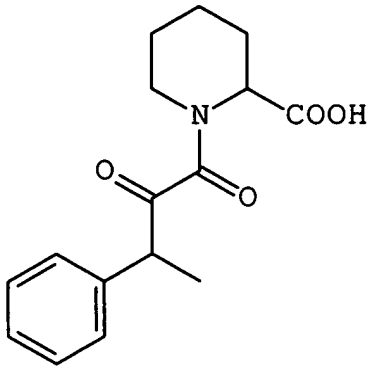

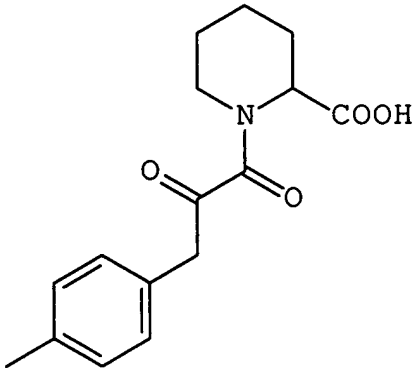

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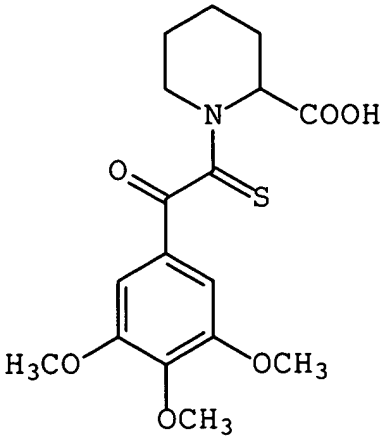

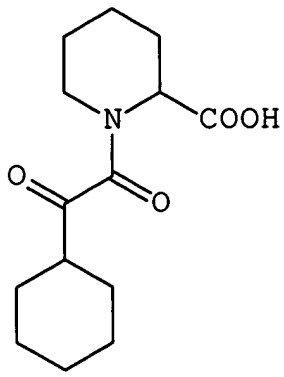

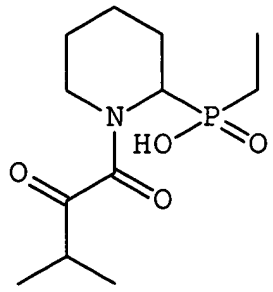

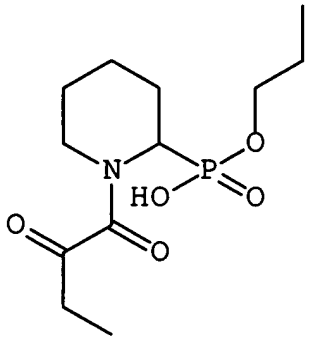

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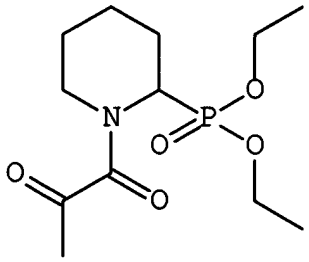

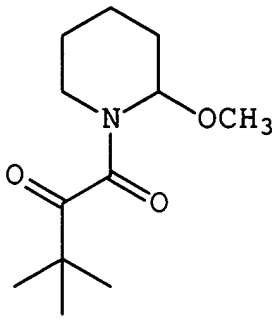

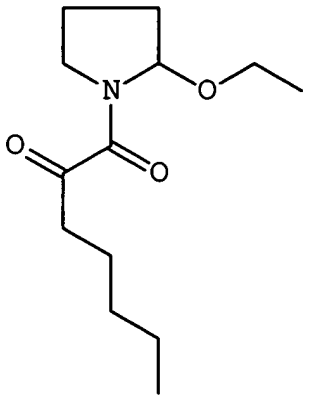

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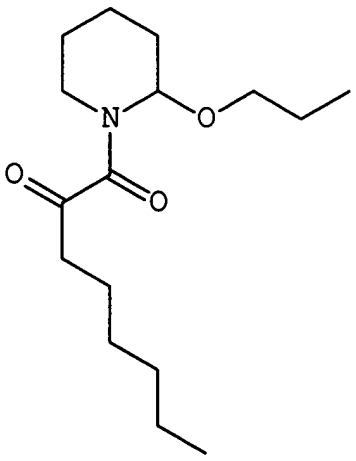

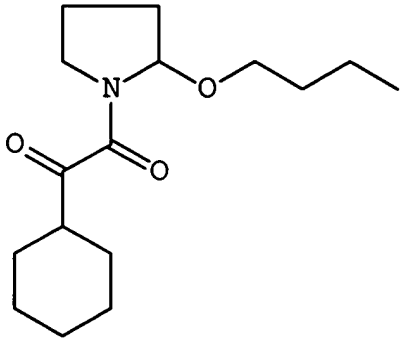

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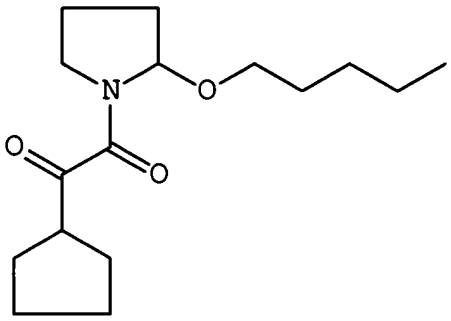

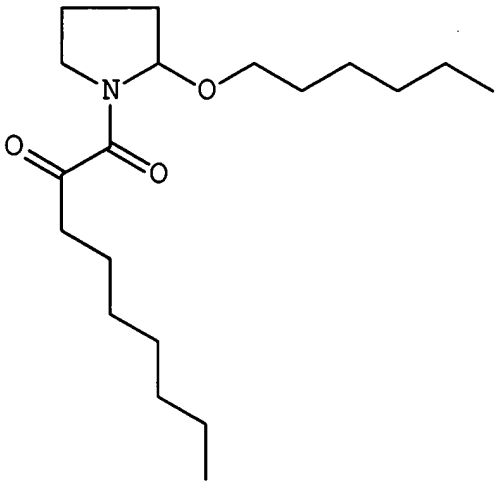

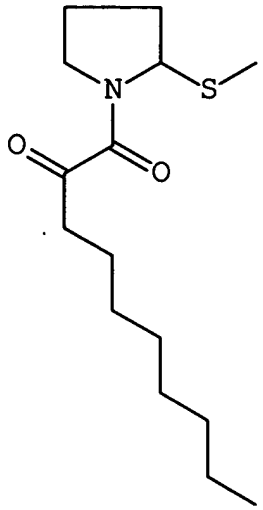

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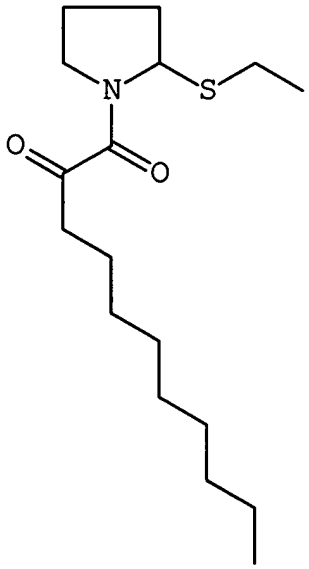

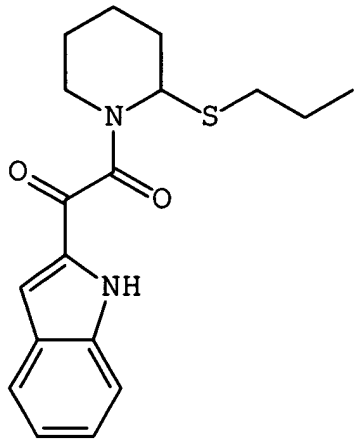

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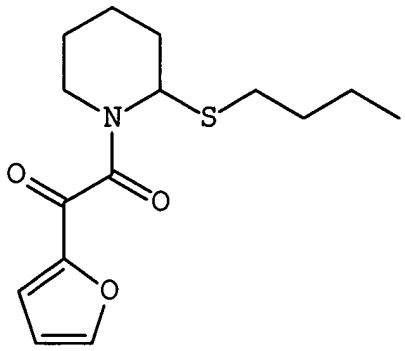

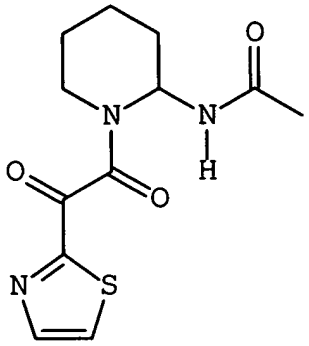

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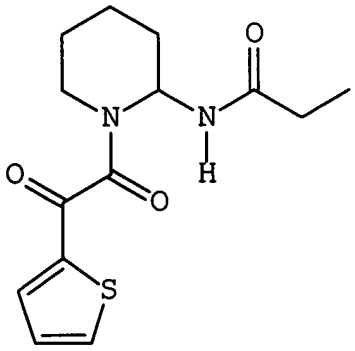

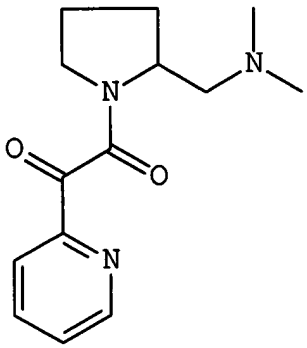

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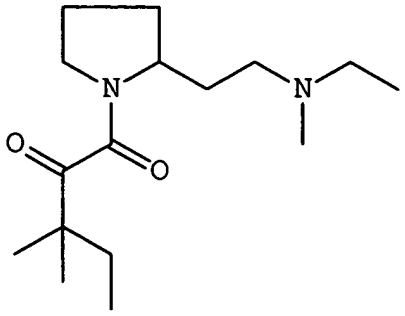

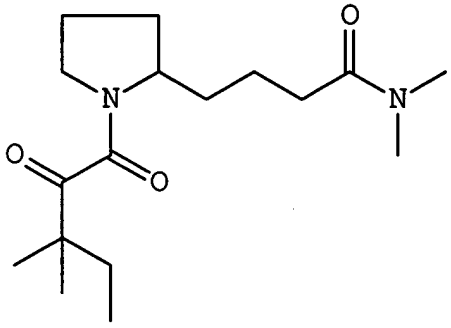

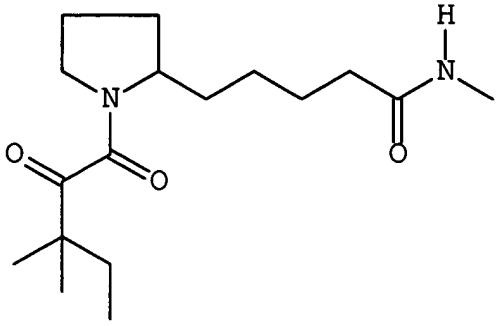

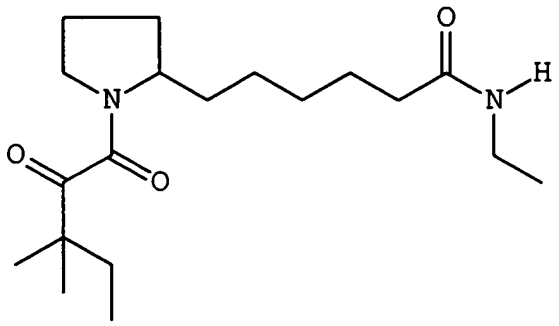

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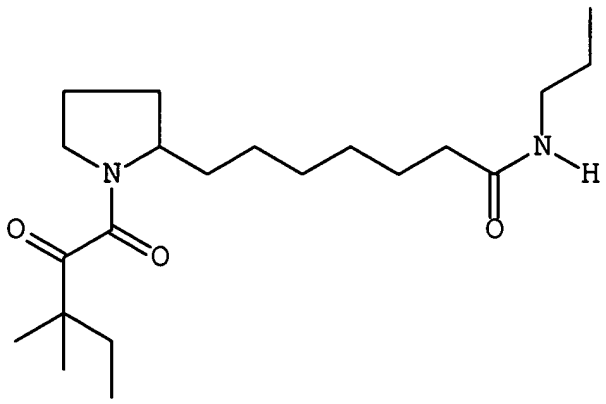

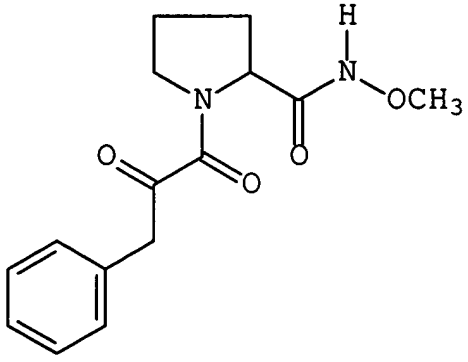

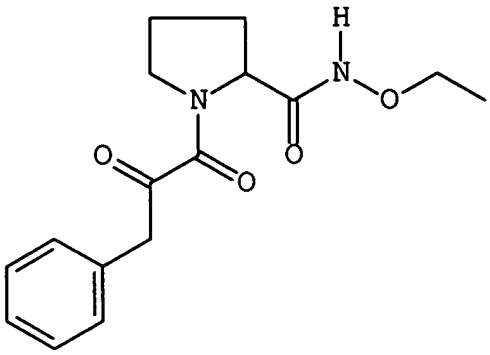

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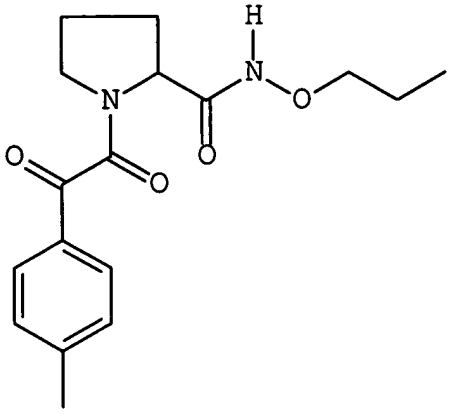

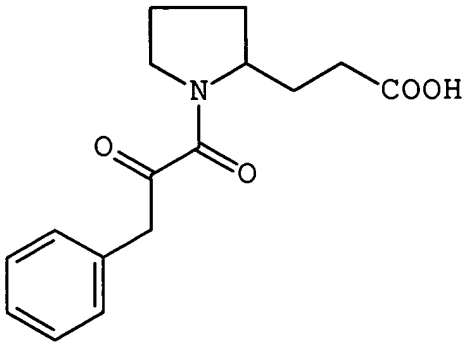

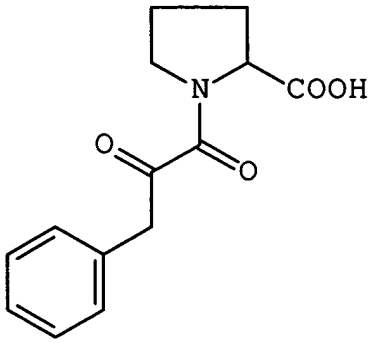

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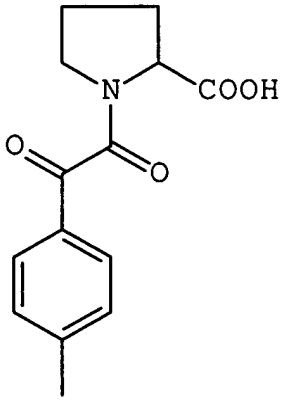

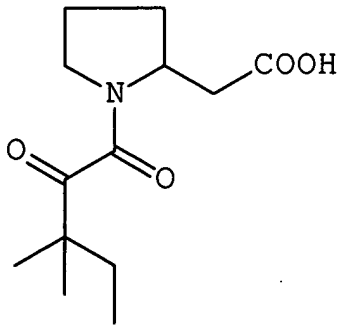

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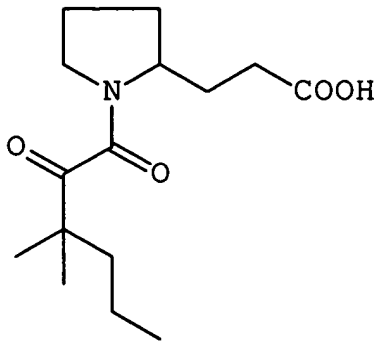

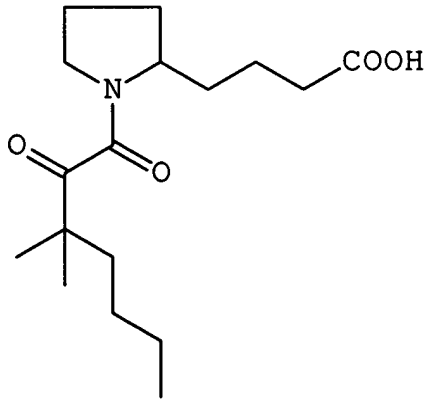

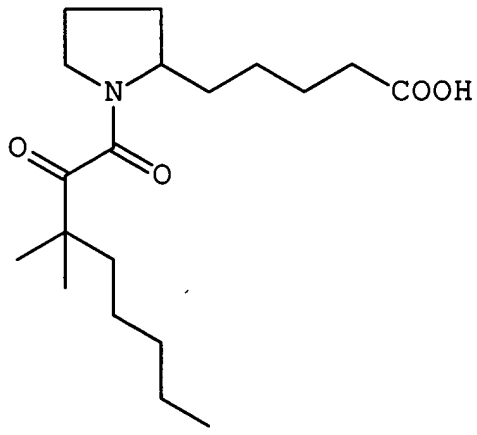

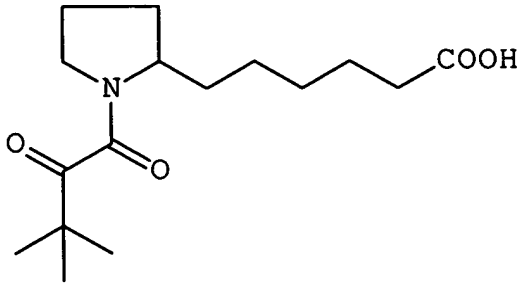

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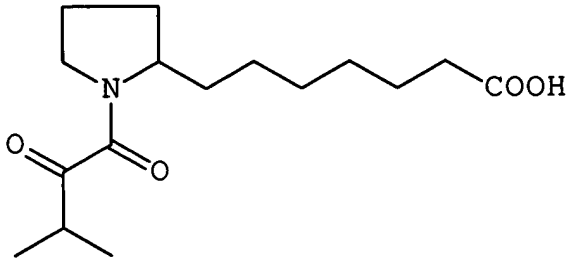

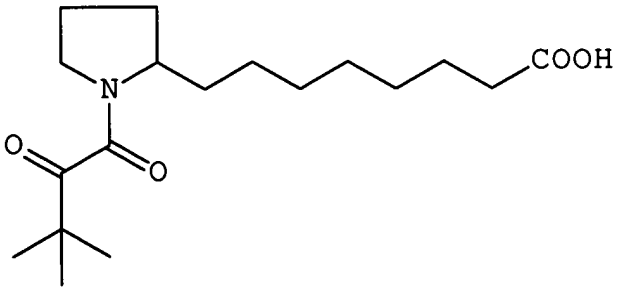

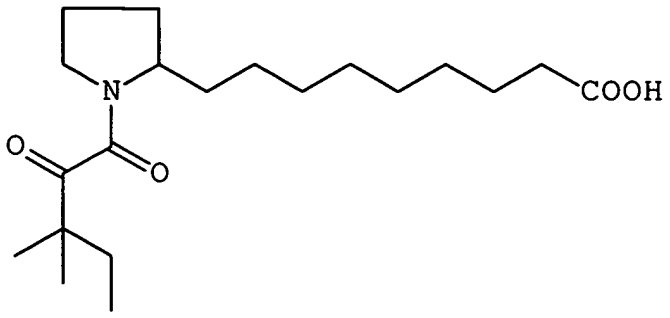

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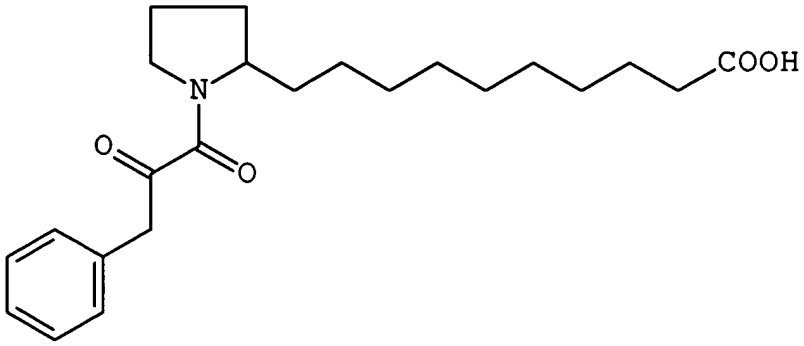

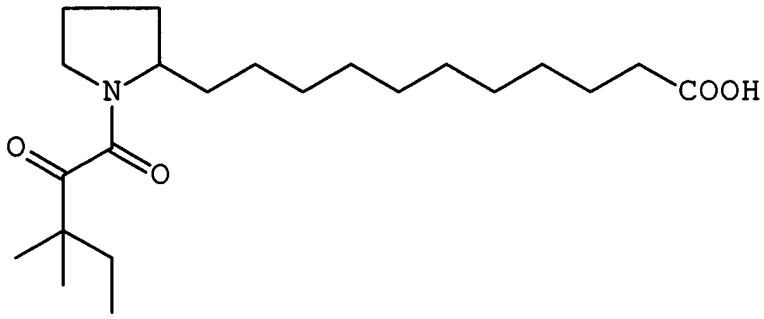

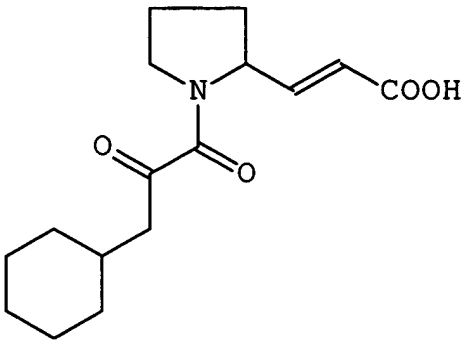

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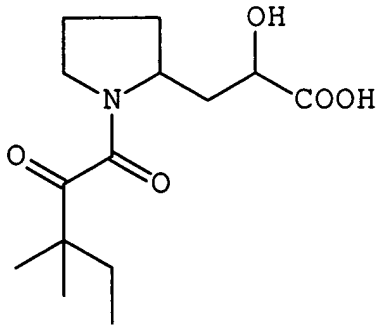

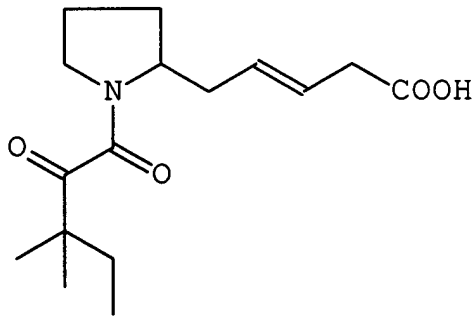

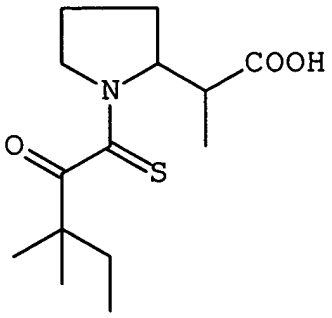

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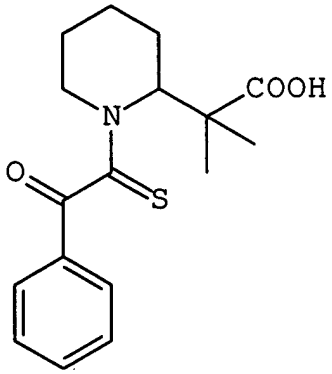

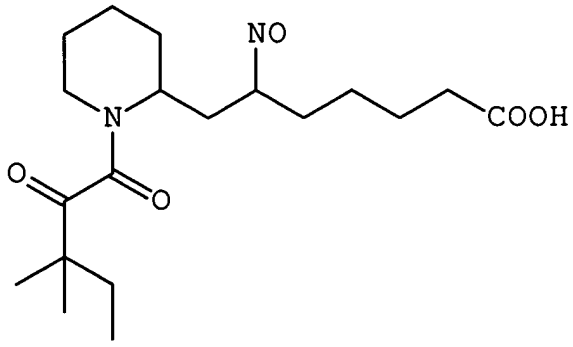

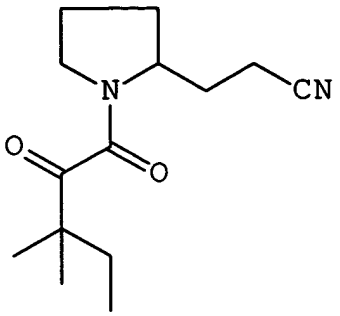

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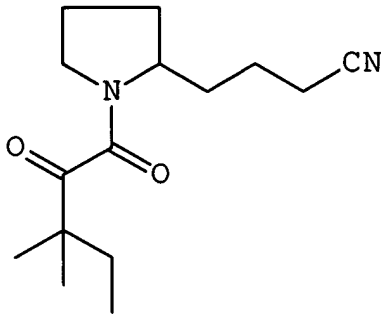

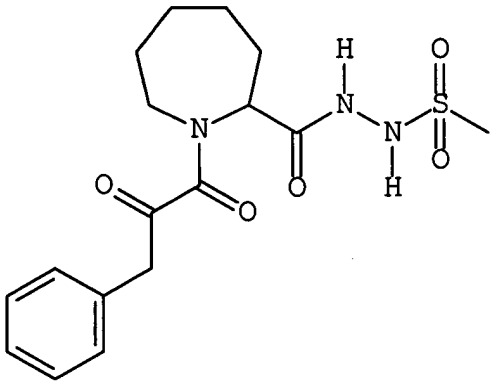

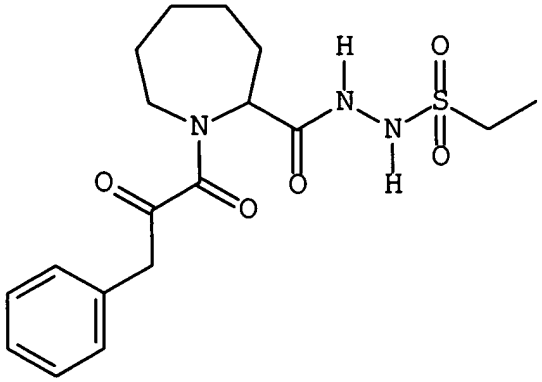

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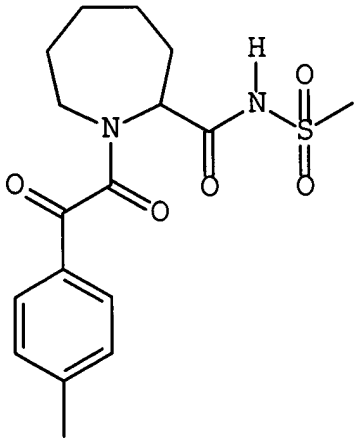

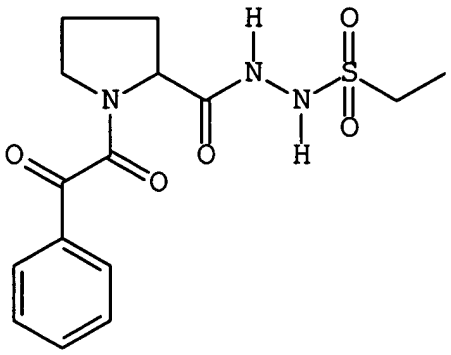

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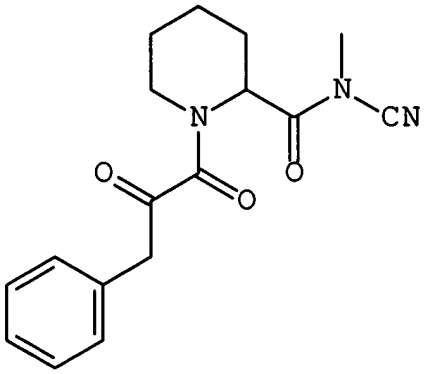

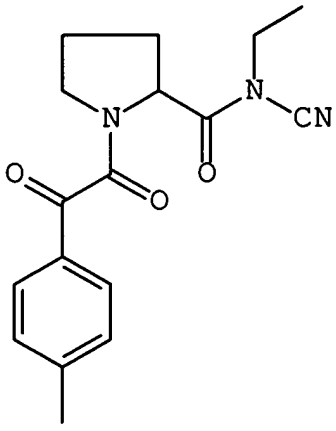

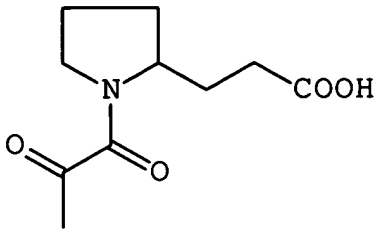

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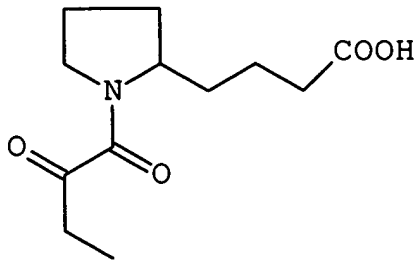

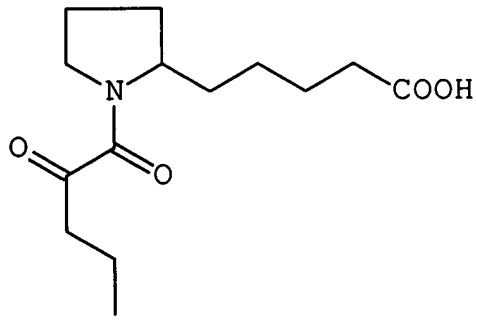

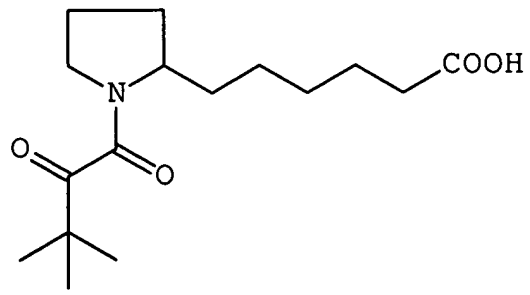

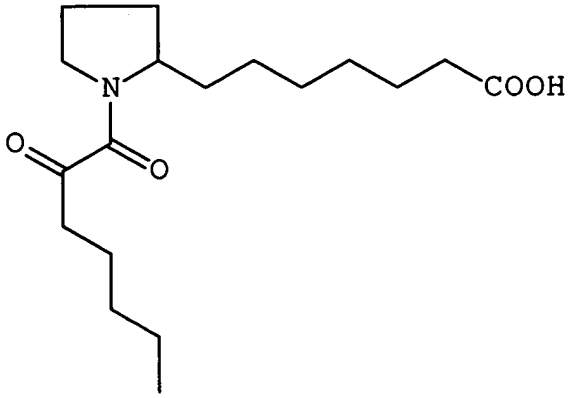

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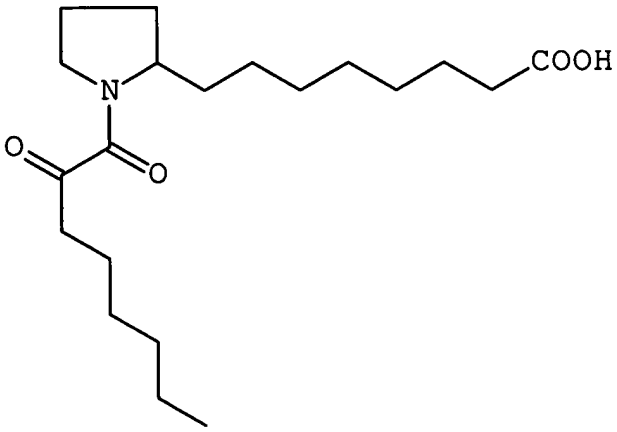

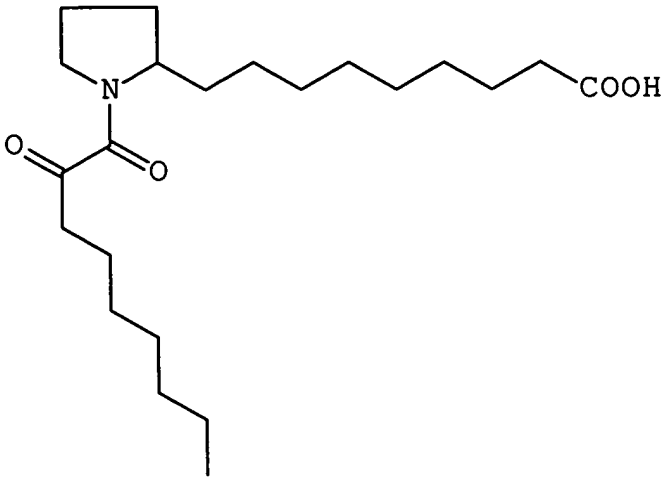

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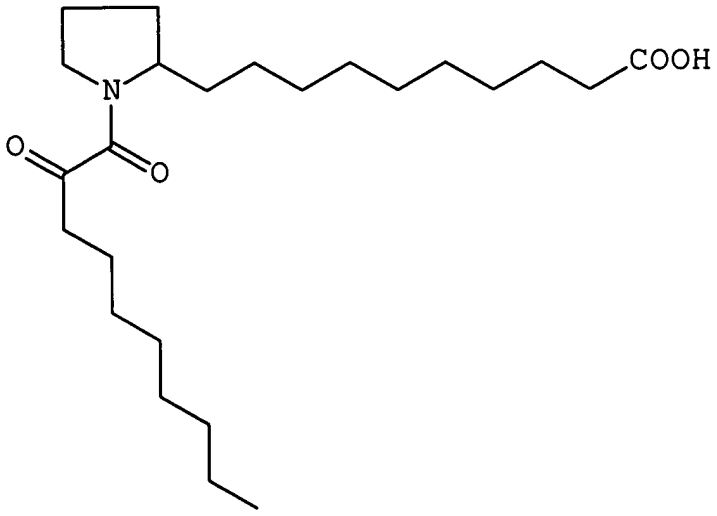

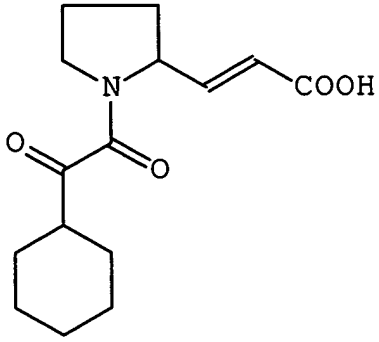

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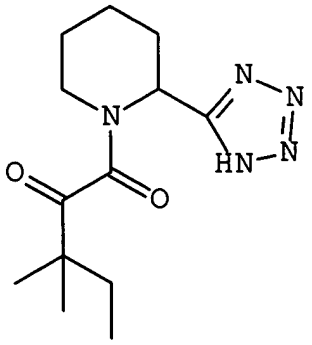

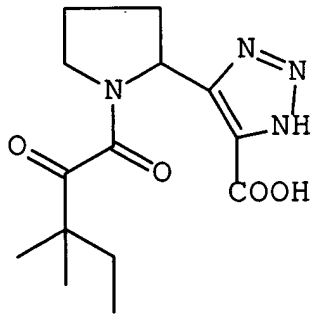

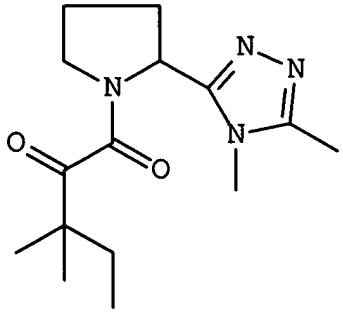

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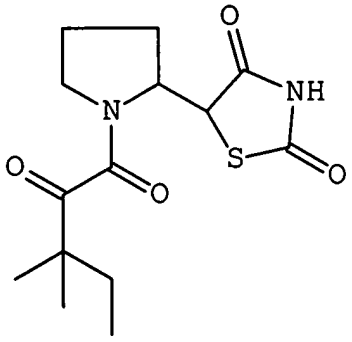

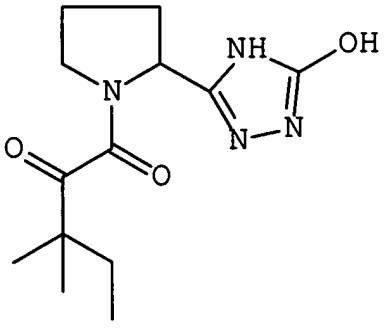

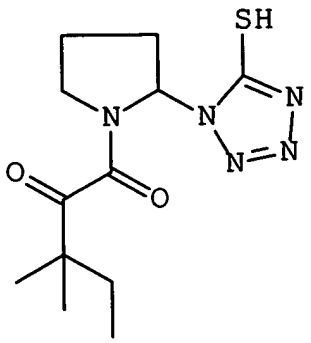

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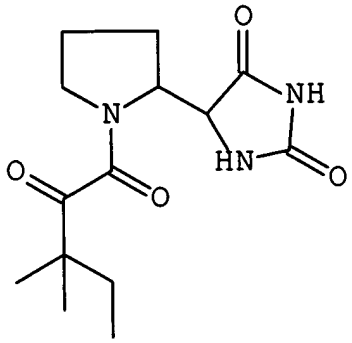

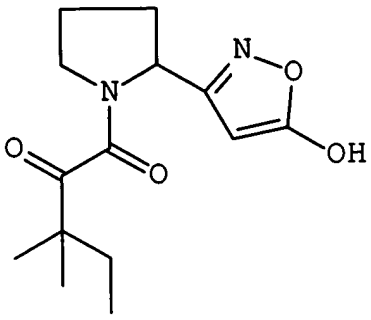

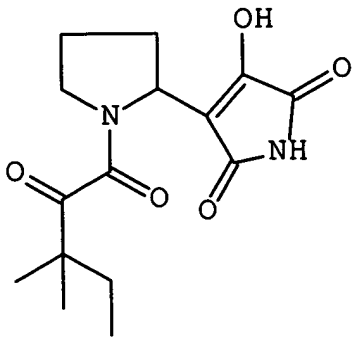

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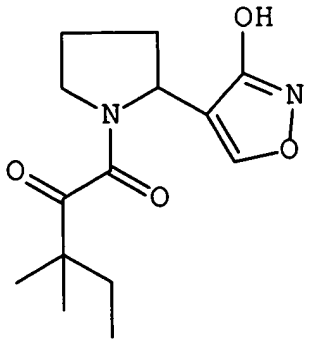

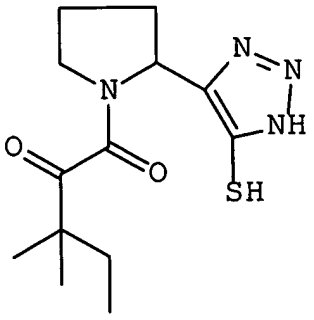

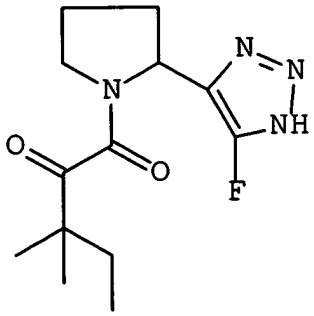

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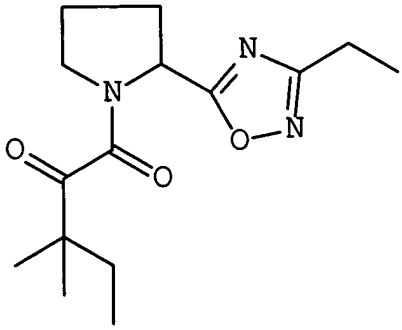

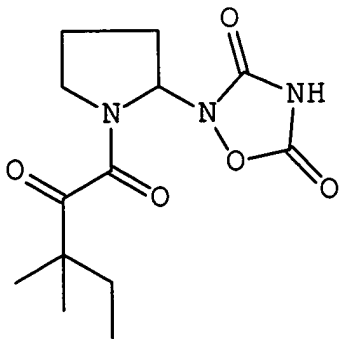

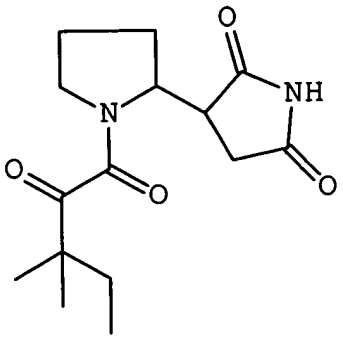

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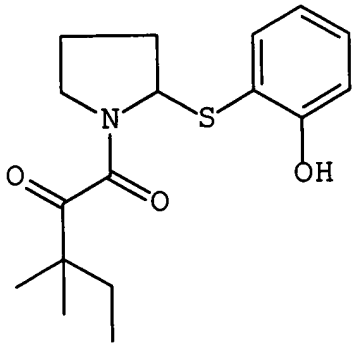

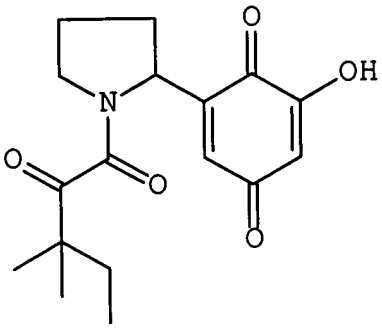

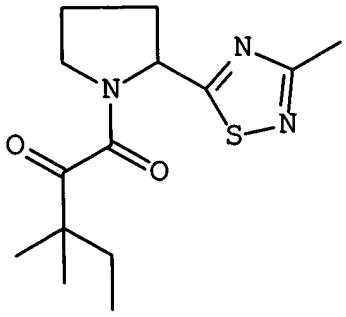

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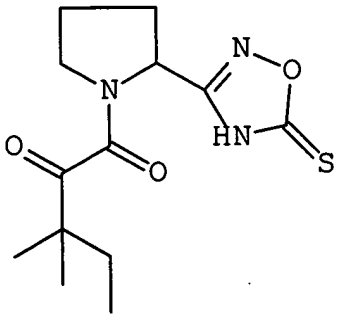

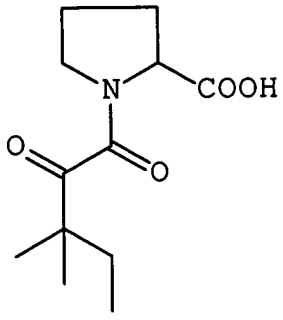

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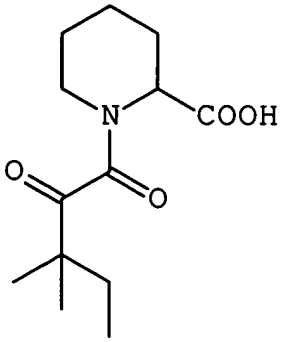

B3 concld

[(2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-hydroxymethyl pyrrolidine; (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-pyrrolidinetetrazole; (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-pyrrolidinecarbonitrile; (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-aminocarbonyl piperidine; and compounds 1-25, 27, 28, 31-33, and 35-136 of Tables I, II, and III].

Please add the following new claims:

B4 --24. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is retinal ischemia.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the retinal ischemia is selected from the group consisting of degeneration of retinal ganglion cells, degeneration of optic nerve axons, degeneration of myelin sheaths, ischemic optic neuropathy, and retinal vascular blockage.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision

disorder is optic nerve transection.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the optic nerve transection is selected from the group consisting of ganglion cell death after optic nerve transection and myelin degeneration after optic nerve transection.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is diabetes.

B4 cont'd

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the diabetes is selected from the group consisting of diabetes from degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

30. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is macular degeneration.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is glaucoma related degeneration.

32. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is cataract related degeneration.

33. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is a detached retina.

34. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is inflammation related degeneration.

35. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is photoreceptor degeneration.

36. The method of claim 1, wherein the nerve-related vision disorder is optic neuritis.